

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 5-7, 13-16, and 19 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 8, 18, and 20-26 are amended herein.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4, 8-12, 18, and 20-26 are currently pending and under consideration in the present application.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 18-24 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

In item 5 on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 18-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 18 and 20-24 are amended herein and overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-7 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(B) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY KAMASZ (US 5,650,352)

The present invention as recited in claim 1 (as amended herein), relates to a solid-state imaging element in which "the number of the plurality of line buffers arranged in the vertical direction is less than v."

Kamasz teaches a method of making a CCD readout register having multiple outputs.

However, Kamasz does not teach or suggest the features as recited in claim 1 of the present invention.

Claims 5-7 are cancelled herein. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and patentably distinguish over Kamasz for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 18, 19, 21, AND 24 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(B) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY HIROTA (US 5,291,294)

Claim 19 is cancelled herein.

The present invention as recited in claims 18, 21, and 24 (as amended herein), relates to a solid-state imaging element in which "the number of the plurality of line buffers arranged in the vertical direction is less than the number of photosensors arranged in the vertical direction."

Hirota teaches a CCD imager with horizontal charge transfer sections in an imaging

section.

However, Hirota does not teach or suggest the features as recited in claims 18, 21, and 24 of the present invention.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

V. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 22 AND 25 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(B) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY MORIMOTO (US 5,969,759)

Claim 22 (as amended herein) relates to a charge-coupled device (CCD) in which “ the number of the plurality of line buffers arranged in the vertical direction is less than the number of photosensors arranged in the vertical direction.” Similar to claim 22, claim 25 (as amended herein) also recites, “the plurality of line buffers is arranged in a vertical direction and is less than the number of the photosensors arranged in the vertical direction.”

Morimoto teaches a solid state image sensing device. However, Morimoto fails to teach the features recited in claims 22 and 25 of the present invention.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

VI. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 8-16 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER KAMASZ IN VIEW OF JUEN (US 5,818,524)

The comments in section III above, also apply here.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

VII. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 20, 23, AND 26 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER HIROTA IN VIEW OF ACIU ET AL. (US 5,625,412)

The comments in section III above, also apply here.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

VIII. CONCLUSION

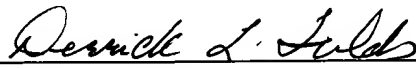
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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